

## Burien Business and Economic Development Partnership

**Date:** September 10, 2010

**Time:** 7:00-9:00 am

**Members Present:** Judy Coover, Bob Ewing, Geri Fain, Kevin Fitz, Michael Goldsmith, Nancy Hinthorne, Jim Hughes, Alice Madsen, Mark Minium

**Excused Absentees:** Doug Moreland, Carmen Moore, Jane Voget

**Absent:** Dave Elliott

**Staff:** Mike Martin, City Manager; Dick Loman, Economic Development Manager; Janet Stallman, Department Assistant, City Manager Office

**Guests:** Mayor Joan McGilton; Councilmembers Kathy Keene and Gordon Shaw; Steve Gilbert, Executive Director, Discover Burien; Ken Phillips, Car Pros Burien

**Call to Order:** Meeting opened at 7:00 a.m. by Judy Coover, Chair.

### **Ken Phillips, Burien Car Pros**

Ken Phillips introduced himself and gave some background information. He has been in the car business for 40 years. This area is home for him. He attended Evergreen High School; Ken lived in Normandy Park for 30 years; His kids grew up here. He's having a lot of fun and glad to be back in the community. Ken was asked why he chose to expand his business here? He said he knew about the beautiful facility and the opportunity here. He knew Butch and he knew and liked the neighborhood and would like to help the community here. Ken was asked what kind of financial commitment he made to invest in Burien. Ken said it was about a \$12 million investment. Ken was asked about how many employees will end up working in this location. He estimated about 35 – 40 employees will be here when all is said and done.

Ken also has a Kia dealership in Tacoma, as well as two dealerships in California.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the August 13, 2010 meeting were approved with addition of report from Waste Management.

### **Chair's Report**

Judy mentioned that the Association of Washington Business is putting together legislative objectives. Judy will report back at October meeting on any of those that are pertinent to this group. She said the discussions have been centering around economic recovery and job creation. Judy said she is meeting with Rep. Steve Conway to talk about SUI rates.

Judy asked whether Mike was aware of the business on Ambaum selling medical marijuana. Mike said he was aware and that we're watching this closely, but there are laws that must be followed. Judy mentioned an incident with pit-bull dogs near Germaine's.

## **Subcommittee Reports**

### **Subcommittee – Annexation & Sustainability**

This committee is looking at economic development planning generally, as well as how annexation might play into that. They are interested in ideas on how to jumpstart the effort. Bob Ewing reported that there is a real feeling on the Subcommittee that economic development is not a priority of the Council. Bob said that Doug Moreland suggested Bob go back and look at the Hyett Palma study which was produced 12 years ago. The whole town center development has been followed through on. There are other areas in that report that could be followed up on, though. Bob said that members of the subcommittee include: Kevin, Alice, Michael, Jim, Carmen, Doug, himself and sometimes Mark.

The group agreed that they would like to focus on the language of “transitional city” vs. “transformational city” in the Economic Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

The group will meet again next Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 a.m. at Sal’s Deli. Janet will make sure the meeting is “Noticed.”

### **Marketing Subcommittee**

The Marketing Subcommittee met and talked about wanting to create buzz about Burien being “the place to be”.

The group met with one of the local brokers and he really is excited about the possibility of the theater. He believes we need something to attract people to come in. He was very positive. He mentioned how good things were looking retail-wise at Town Square before the meltdown. He understands that there are challenges in entire industry out there. He made the comment that Burien is not viewed as a “hub” by the outside. We’re not seen as a draw, yet. He suggested that Burien can position itself as a proactive community for helping to bring companies in for leases and/or lease improvements. Nancy Hinthorne mentioned that Tukwila recently imposed a \$55/head tax per employee, which could potentially help Burien.

### **City Manager Report**

- We are getting ready to present our budget to council; we hope to wrap up in one and one-half months. Only a couple of new items are in the budget – money for a visioning project and a proposal to fund a study regarding a new municipal police department. New positions are in the budget attendant to the asphalt overlay program. Work on Ambaum will start within the next two to three weeks. There will be one new senior planning position proposed in the budget; that position will largely be coordinating the visioning project next year.
- Mike has been having discussions with the Port of Seattle about what remains to be done in the NERA. We need to coordinate with the Port on land use. The city has advocated an automall in that area; Mike wants to press the issue and wants to understand within six to twelve months whether or not this can happen. Mike is looking at a Plan B in case the automall is not a reality. Bob Ewing asked whether we are looking at an outside consultant for NERA’s Plan B and how Mike is planning to involve BEDP in that work? Mike said he was not sure what outside consulting would add at this point. He would like to have an idea for a plan prior to bringing the issue to BEDP.
- Mike is looking at a mechanism that would create a public safety authority for providing police protection. It might be a long road, but it may be worth it. Binding arbitration is a big issue. Mike was asked whether the cost would go down if we privatized the police force? He stated

that we generally save 20-30% on everything we take in-house from the County. Mike really likes our police, but realizes it is not sustainable to continue with the County indefinitely.

### **Economic Manager Report**

- Jerry O'Day, former Marketing Director of Schick Shadel Hospital, and now an independent marketing consultant, is chairing a marketing subcommittee for Burien Wellness. They met Wednesday to begin work on creating a media kit. This is a great opportunity for us.
- Highline Community College will be offering classes out of the old Community Center (the "annex").
- Paul Keller called last week, foreclosure sale is scheduled for October. The noteholder may get title to the property. The theater deal is still being discussed. There are lots of groups to coordinate with. It is not a dead deal. Question: Who's maintaining the condo facility over there? Answer: Urban Partners; they have a caretaker.

### **Discover Burien Report—Steve Gilbert**

The Farmers market continues to do better than budget; Burien sets the gold standard for Farmers' markets.

- The Fall Artwalk is a week from Saturday, along with Arts Aglow Lantern Festival. 4-9 pm Artwalk; 5-10 pm Arts Aglow.
- Oktoberfest is the last week of September, which is when it is traditionally held. There will be a beer garden this year.
- Marketing committee is working on some significant advertising about Burien during the holiday season.
- Membership continues to grow; over 600 friends on Facebook.
- Board has an upcoming planning retreat.
- The Sunday market has had a real challenge with bad weather this year.

### **Downtown Parking Discussion**

Dick wanted to know whether we should take a look at changing our two-hour parking limit to three or four hours. A discussion ensued. In the end it was moved, seconded and unanimously passed that the parking limit be kept at two hours.

### **Round the Table**

All members thanked Ken Phillips for coming to the community and investing here.

*Michael Goldsmith* –EBB is celebrating Oktoberfest on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>; 3-10 pm. Michael also mentioned that EBB has had a barrel-aged beer program that they are excited about. EBB has signed on a building in Lake City – will be opening another location. They will take possession in May next year. Michael will be involved with the planning of that facility.

*Alice Madsen* – There is still space in Art History & US Government classes to be held in Burien.

*Nancy Hinthorne* –Mark Reis will be speaking at the membership luncheon today.

*Geri Fain* – HSD is in the bond planning stages; no decision's been made as to whether to go ahead with the bond proposal. If they move forward, Highline High and Des Moines Elementary would be rebuilt.

*Kevin Fitz* – Go over to Dan House's Tin Room theatre; phenomenal what he has done there. Kudos to Dan and his continued investment in the community.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.